

EN

E-002871/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.8.2025)

On 17 June 2025, the Commission adopted the Defence Readiness Omnibus¹, proposing new measures to cut red tape and facilitate the EUR 800 billion of investment that EU countries need to ensure their defence industries can deliver at speed and scale. The measures build on the vision set out in the White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 that identified simplifying and harmonising rules as an essential way to boost Europe's defence investment and preparedness.

In the Communication accompanying the Defence Readiness Omnibus², in its section 'Developing skills and ensuring employment frameworks adapted to defence readiness', the Commission points out that the Court of Justice of the EU has confirmed that Directive 2003/88/EC may not apply in relation to certain specific activities, including active deployment or initial or operational training.³ While preserving existing flexibilities, the Commission will engage with Member States and social partners on the application of the Directive to military personnel in the Armed Forces.

¹ New simplification proposal will speed up defence investments in the EU https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/new-simplification-proposal-will-speed-defence-investments-eu-2025-06-17_en.

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – Defence Readiness Omnibus, COM(2025) 820 final, 17.6.2025 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0820>.

³ Judgment in case C-742/19, *Ministrstvo za obrambo* - <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?num=C-742/19>.